



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REACH Ranked Top IP Backbone in Asia for Fourth Consecutive Year

20 September 2004, HONG KONG -- REACH, Asia's leading international wholesale carrier, has been ranked the top IP backbone operator, in terms of Intra-Asia connectivity, by independent market research firm Gartner Inc. This is the fourth year in a row REACH has achieved the accolade in the annual Gartner study.

Gartner's "Asia-Pacific IP Backbone Opportunities 2004" report, which was published this month, ranked REACH the top IP Backbone in the Asia region.

"The report highlights REACH's unparalleled regional connectivity as the operator of the most diverse high-speed network in the Asia region," said Ms. Mira Bashi, Director of Marketing, REACH. "We are pleased with the report's findings, and in particular, the confirmation of our position as the leading wholesale carrier of traffic in this region."

"Strong growth for applications such as broadband is driving the demand for IP services," said Bashi. "REACH's Intra-Asia IP network capacity has increased from 7 Gbit/s to 17 Gbit/s over a 12-month period, and global customer traffic has doubled over the same period from 11 Gbit/s to 23 Gbit/s."

REACH also has the fastest gateway to China and Taiwan with over 7.5 Gbit/s of capacity from its hub in Hong Kong.

Mr. To Chee Eng, Gartner's principal telecom analyst in Asia-Pacific and author of the Gartner report, said "This is the fourth year in a row that REACH has come out on top for Intra-Asia connectivity. REACH is one of the few carriers with a very good mix of capacity and geographic reach."

"When evaluating which carrier has the best regional connectivity, consideration must be given to capacity, the ability to connect to more countries, peering capabilities and customer relationships with major ISPs," said Mr. To.

In addition, the REACH IP backbone network is ranked the best connected IP network centred in the Asia-Pacific region by independent research firm Netconfigs (Netconfigs, 2004).

REACH serves more than 400 carriers and service providers throughout the world, and offers access to some of the newest cable systems in the region, including the REACH North Asia Loop cable, the Japan-US cable and the Australian-Japan cable system.

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About REACH

REACH is Asia's largest international wholesale carrier of combined voice, IPLC and IP data services. It is also one of the world's top ten carriers of international voice traffic. REACH's services include an extensive portfolio of voice, data, IP and satellite connectivity solutions. REACH has interests in more than 40 submarine cable and satellite systems (including Asia's largest teleport), and operating licences and landing rights in most major markets including Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, North America and Europe. REACH is headquartered in Hong Kong, with a significant presence in Australia and substantial businesses across Asia, North America and Europe. For further information, please visit www.reach.com

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